



Parent and carer newsletter

February 2024

A letter from the Head of School

In school, we have had a busy and fun filled half term.

We are very proud to share that a group of students have collaborated with the NSPCC to review some of their educational programme materials. Students offered feedback on the NSPCC learning resources with regards to accessibility and representation. This collaboration also links with our work this half term in keeping ourselves safe on online. Some students went on to lead the E-Safety assembly, all of this work continues to support a safer online environment across the school. We continue to update our [advice and guidance for parents on our website](#).



Students have also collaborated with our Learning Resource Centre Team to review the environment and what they would like to change to make it more accessible for them in regards to both their needs and their interests. Students who are part of the Dance Live team are rehearsing twice weekly in preparation for the dance competition in March. The preparation for this event has offered students the opportunity to collaborate with external music, dance and theatrical specialists. Students have taken the lead on designing costumes, imagery and directing and leading on both their own and others' performance.

World Book Day is just around the corner, thank you to families who have responded to the invitation to collaborate with us for our world book week by sharing a book with your child's class either face to face, virtually or pre-recorded.

I hope you are finding the Parent Portal informative; if you have any content queries, please contact your class teacher. Our Technology Team will have a support stand on parents day for any queries regarding accessing the portal.

I would like to thank the staff team at Treloar's for their hard work and dedication this half term and wish both them and you an enjoyable half term.

We look forward to welcoming everybody back for more events and excitement. (see events below)

All the best,

Lisa Bond, Head of School

Events next half term:

World book week: 4-8 March

Science week: 11-15 March

Dance Live performance: 14 March, 7pm, G Live Guildford

Parent/carers day: 27 March

<u>Dates for your diary</u>	Spring Term 2024
Friday 9 February	End of half term 3 School closes 3.30pm Houses close at 3.30pm
Monday 12 - Friday 16 February	Half term holiday for staff and students
Sunday 18 February	Residential students return to houses 5.00pm onwards
Monday 19 February	Start of half term 4
Thursday 28 March	End of half term 4 School closes 2.00pm Houses close 3.30pm



Updates from Sally Nissen, Head of Nursing and Healthcare

Measles

Before the introduction of measles vaccine in 1963 and widespread vaccination, major epidemics occurred approximately every 2-3 years causing around 2.6 million deaths each year. Recent outbreaks of measles in some areas of the UK are therefore causing serious concern. Measles spreads very easily – the best protection is to get both doses of the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine – it is never too late to have these vaccinations. More information is available here: [Measles - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk) and [Education Hub blog](#).



Flu

We have also been notified that influenza (flu) is spreading in our local community. Please keep students at home if they are unwell. Students should not be accessing face to face education until they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for Covid.

Contact your GP if you have questions about immunisations. Please alert us of any changes to your young person's immunisations status on Medicalsecretary@treloar.org.uk

Support for students who become unwell

As a school and college, we are not the best place for students to stay if acutely unwell, and will seek advice in these situations. We now have improved access to clinical advice – access to dedicated health professional phone lines for NHS 111 and 999, as well as the Clinical Communications Centre at our local NHS Trust, Monday to Friday 0800 to 2200 which provides a clinical advisor and direct access to hospital if appropriate. For less urgent issues, the young person's GP is still the first point of contact and you may be asked to contact them directly.

Student absence for planned surgery, hospital admission or sickness (over 7 days)

Reminder: Please contact your students' progress and transition co-ordinator (PTC) to arrange a reassessment following illness or hospital admission. It is helpful to have as much notice and detail, so we can plan and arrange this as soon as possible. Depending on the circumstances, this may be an onsite reassessment involving members of the multi-disciplinary team (parents/carers are asked to remain onsite) or it may be a phone call.

Farnham Dene Medical Practice

We now have four doctors providing onsite GP services through Farnham Dene: Dr Maddie Triay and Dr Alexandra Streeter de Diego have joined the clinic schedule this month.

TPA news

Hello from the TPA! We hope you're all surviving the winter bugs and enjoying the lighter mornings.

Christmas Raffle

In December, our Christmas Raffle raised over £1000 which contributed to the festive gifts and activities that we sponsored for the students. We were delighted to receive some lovely feedback about how much the students enjoyed their gifts and we would like to say a huge thank you to the staff who bought really thoughtful items and co-ordinated some really lovely activities for our young people. Thank you to each and every single person who donated a prize or bought a ticket - it was fantastic to be so well supported by the Treloar's community.

Pre-Loved Uniform Sale

We still have some pre-loved uniform left in various sizes, please email us at parents@treloar.org.uk if you would like to know what we have in stock.

Upcoming Events

We have a number of events coming up for the rest of this term, all of which are free to join and as always; it would be great to see as many parents and carers participate as possible.

Leap Year Social

Join us on Thursday 29 February at 7 pm on zoom for a fun evening of quizzing and a chance to connect with other parents and carers - look out for more details coming very soon! Email parents@treloar.org.uk for zoom details.

Monthly Coffee Mornings

This term, our monthly coffee morning will take place on Monday 4 March. Join us in the Jowett Centre for a coffee and chat.

Cake Sale

We will be hosting a cake sale on Friday 22 March, and we would welcome any donations of baked goods. (No nuts please)

Join our committee

Do you have some spare time and would like to be more involved in the TPA? We would love to welcome more members to our team so please do get in touch on parents@treloars.org.uk. Also if you have any feedback, thoughts or ideas of future activities, then please do get in touch - we welcome your input!

Have a lovely half term!

From the TPA



Treloar's maintains 'Outstanding' record for school residential provision

We are delighted to report that Treloar School Residential provision has maintained Ofsted's 'Outstanding'.

The Ofsted Inspectors arrived in the last week of term before Christmas. They were lucky enough to experience the full range of Christmas festivities.

The inspector was highly impressed by the commitment and skill of all of the staff that she met. The students were fantastic advocates and were really positive about life at Treloar's. [The full report is available](#) to read online, here's an extract:

"Students thrive at this residential special school. It is a safe, vibrant and inclusive environment that promotes and enables everyone's strengths and abilities. The celebration of individual uniqueness, strong planning and a culture of high aspirations mean that students and their families have life-changing experiences."

The report recognised the effectiveness of our multi-disciplinary teams who provide students with "collaborative and highly personalised support". Students are encouraged to advocate for themselves.

"Students share their wishes and opinions on all aspects of their personal care routines, and staff support them with the utmost respect and dignity."

Julie Bodnar's open and responsive leadership was singled out for praise in the report and the leadership team on Gloucester were viewed as very caring and professional.

"The residential manager is highly visible and has a dynamic vision for excellence. She leads by example and demonstrates an unquestionable commitment and passion to providing the highest possible standards of care for students."

Treloar's Principal Martin Ingram is proud that the hard work and commitment of Treloar's staff and students has been recognised again by Ofsted: "The nature of the support that we provide and the criteria that OFSTED use may change, but the commitment and expertise of everyone at Treloar's to be the very best that we can be, is as strong as ever."

Internet Safety Week

Helen Cronshaw, Treloar's Head of Learning Technology, conducted the eSafety workshop for Treloar's students as part of Internet Safety Week 2024. The session primarily focussed on 3 critical aspects: the risks associated with oversharing online, digital footprint and the potential issues of online friendships.

Students were informed about the potential consequences of revealing too much personal information on various online platforms, including social media and forums. Through real-life examples and interactive discussions, they gained insights into the importance of maintaining privacy and safeguarding their digital footprint. Additionally, the workshop delved into the complexities of online friendships, emphasising the significance of exercising caution when establishing relationships with individuals met online.



Participants were encouraged to prioritize safety measures, identify responsible adults who they could ask for help and advice both at home and at Treloar's as well as learning to employ critical thinking skills to navigate the digital landscape responsibly.

Following the eSafety workshop's emphasis on the risks of oversharing online, students were encouraged to take an active role in promoting internet safety within the school during their Friday assembly. Leveraging a creative approach, they each led a group for a bingo-style activity where peers could actively participate and think about their online activities.

By taking part in the workshop and leading on the activity, the students contributed to fostering a safer online environment within Treloar's.



World Braille Day

To mark [World Braille Day](#), School students learnt about Braille during their assembly. The students researched the use of Braille and shared their learning in the assembly; they also looked at a Braille book and watched a short film about Clarke Reynolds, AKA the Blind Braille artist, whose mission is to inspire the next generation of visually impaired children growing up. Clarke creates artwork that is accessible to everyone. Additionally, each student was asked to create their own initial in Braille on a wooden circle. When the artwork is completed, we hope to display it in one of the outdoor learning areas of the school.

Learning about World Braille Day is all about celebrating inclusion and diversity. At Treloar's, our students use a whole range of different communication tools and assistive technology to support them with their education and independence. It is important for them to be aware of the similarities/differences and the challenges other people face whilst celebrating the determination that is shown by artists like Clarke Reynolds to advocate for disability.



Dragon Dance performance

A primary class has incorporated their physiotherapy, SLT and OT skills in performing a dragon dance to celebrate Chinese New Year. The year 2024 is the Year of the Dragon. The students have been involved in making their own lanterns, painting a dragon and choreographing a class dance; students discussed how they wanted to move, combining their physio stretches as well as their driving skills, using a joy stick to a switch activated platform.



School topic launches

Every term, Treloar School teachers launch a new topic for their lessons. Introducing new topics at the start of each term provides breadth and balance to student learning. Periklis Karachalias, Leader of Learning for Primary School at Treloar's, said:

“The introduction of a new topic to students creates anticipation; it motivates them and makes them more curious.”



Walking through the jungle

This half term, school students will be metaphorically walking through the jungle and will be introduced to rainforests as part of wider teaching on physical geography.

Primary classes were able to all gather in the new outdoor learning classroom to take part in fun and interactive activities and launch their new topic 'Walking through the jungle'.



Mythical creatures

The topic for Key Stage 3 this term is 'Mythical creatures'. The classes will be building on the knowledge gained from their previous topic 'Around the world in 80 days' by exploring a range of creatures that relate to the countries that had been investigated last term.

For their topic launch, all the classes had a range of stations created to help introduce everyone to a number of creatures and get everyone excited about what they will be learning about in the spring term.



Investigation

KS4 students were invited to take part in 10 different activities to search for 10 different letters or phonemes which would spell a word to complete the challenge. Similar to an escape room, each task encouraged the students to solve a problem or test a theory or make something creative.

PE this half term

Visit to Alton College

Our Primary students were invited to a sports session run by Alton College students as part of their sports course.

We had lots of fun playing parachute games and other playground games and can't wait to invite them to visit us at Treloar's later in the year.



“This half term, our amazing students have all been taking part in a Fitness and Movement Unit in PE. They have been learning about the body systems and how they affect exercise and then trying lots of different fitness circuits, Boxercise, and Chairobics exercises, before coming up with their own personal Exercise Programme. Each and every student has embraced this opportunity to choose exercises that suit them alongside a playlist of their favourite music to ensure motivation is kept high.”

Sports Ambassadors

We are really proud of our Sports Ambassadors Xavi and Ben. Both College students have been coming to Option PE to help school students during their Chosen Option Subject.

They have been involved in giving demonstrations and leading warm ups for different sporting activities. Setting out equipment and being in charge of stations during circuits and giving help, support and advice or feedback where necessary.



From Freya Chart,
PE Teacher and Leader of Learning



Transition stories from former students

Our Transition Team invited former students Adam, Tilly and Jonah to take our students through their own transition journeys.

Adam, Tilly and Jonah spoke about how to prepare for the day they leave Treloar's.

[Read more on our website.](#)

Parent Governor campaigning

Treloar's parent governor, Susie Marsh, has shared recently a short video introducing a new manifesto from Disabled Children's Partnership. In the video, Susie talks about the need to ensure that disabled children and young people are at the forefront of the minds of all parties as we head towards a general election.

You can find [the full manifesto here](#).



STEM professionals needed!

Jane Gomershall, SEN Science Teacher at Treloar's, is looking for STEM professionals who would be able to come to Treloar's during our Science Week to talk to our students about careers in STEM.

The event will take place on Monday 11 March at 11.15 at Treloar's.

Please share this information with your friends, family members and colleagues.

For more information, please get in touch with Jane via email: Jane.Gomersall@treloar.org.uk



Boccia and New Age Kurling Tournament

On Tuesday 16 January, a group of 4 School students attended the annual Boccia and New Age Kurling Tournament hosted by the Sports Leaders from Peter Symonds College in Winchester. 6 special schools from Hampshire played New Age Kurling in the morning, followed by [Boccia](#) in the afternoon. The students thoroughly enjoyed the day which not only enabled them to compete externally, but also to socialise with students from other schools.

Hannah's train travel experience

Hannah, Treloar College student, who is one of our current Supported Interns, has been recently working with Surrey Coalition of Disabled People.

Hannah's blog about accessible public transport has been recently posted on the Surrey Coalition's website; it's an account of Hannah's trip to Aldershot and her experience of using the train from Alton to Aldershot.

[You can read her blog post here.](#)



About Treloar's Supported Internships Programme

Launched in 2019, Treloar's [Supported Internships Programme](#) still plays a vital part in the pathway to paid employment for Treloar's students.

[This one-year programme](#), pioneered by Transition Manager Maria Sherwood and Supported Internship Coordinator Charlotte Mills, is a fantastic opportunity to get experience working for an employer.

Collaborating with Parents

It is always such a joy to have parents and carers here on site at Treloar's. In January, we welcomed Andreas and Sarah, parents to our school students, who paid us a visit and delivered wonderful workshops.

Greek-themed lesson with Andreas

Sofia's dad Andreas joined a cooking class for a Greek-themed lesson where students were learning how to make Tzatziki.

Andreas grew up in a village in Corfu and told the class, who is currently learning about ancient Greece and mythology, about all the fresh ingredients that go into Greek cuisine.

Cookery is an extremely sensory experience for Treloar's students. During the lesson, the class learned to help each other, taking turns to use the garlic press, using different tools, mixing, experiencing different flavours and aromas. The added bonus was a fresh Tzatziki dip to take home to enjoy with their families!



Introduction to Buddhism

Each January, we celebrate World Religion Day with an aim to promote understanding of all religions.

This year, as part of the celebrations, we welcomed Sarah, a mum to one of our primary students, who talked to us about Buddhism. Students had a chance to experience and understand aspects of the religion.



Thank you Sarah and Andreas for your visits and for delivering such informative and interesting lessons!

Accessible skiing

Back at the beginning of term, Treloar College students Hannah and Is travelled to The Snow Centre in Hemel Hempstead and had the opportunity to ski for the first time in their lives! They had such a great time on the slopes, and Is said:

“I couldn’t believe how accessible the activity was – I want to take my family back to have a go too!”



The importance of online Autistic communities

Former student Claire has recently written a blog post which was published on the website Neurodiverse Connection. The blog is a Q&A with Claire about the benefits of engaging with online Autistic communities.

[You can read Claire's blog here.](#)

Textile recycling bank at Treloar's

In February, we are expecting 2 new textile recycling banks to be delivered to Treloar's. The Textile Banks accept:

- All clothes
- All footwear (paired)
- Curtains
- Towels
- Bed Linen

Locations: Front visitor car park and rear staff car park





Sensory class receives a gift

In January, Gordon Dunse, the owner of a coffee shop in Ellisfield, presented a Sensory Light Box to Charlene and Kirsty's class. Gordon hosted a fundraising event before Christmas to raise money to buy the gift for the class.

Future Fest

On 9 February, students, parents and carers met with future living service providers from a variety of sectors—from housing to advocacy services, care organisations and activity providers to universities.

Future Fest is our flagship transition event that provides a very successful and vital information service so that students can begin to investigate options available to them for when they leave Treloar's.

To help guide choices, we've compiled an [online exhibitor directory](#), packed full of information to support our students with their decision making and future plans.



Speak Out Stay Safe

Chris Butler's class was invited to provide feedback for the [NSPCC](#) 'Speak Out Stay Safe' programme.

After the visit, the NSPCC Schools Service Co-ordinator praised the class for their mature approach. They made suggestions about how the resources could be adapted to benefit secondary school students. They discussed the style of delivery, the accessibility of the resources, the use of language and the use of BSL versus Makaton.



Supporting the Marketing Team

Over the last term and a half, the Marketing Team has been implementing a new refreshed look for Treloar's. You may have spotted our new recruitment banners, posters, and refreshed Treloar's Today magazine. Across the campus, we'll be updating and replacing signage with our new logo, aiming to be bolder and more accessible with our new typeface. Treloar's students have been involved from the beginning of the project sharing their opinions during the Student Voices conference and taking part in brand workshops with our graphic designer. Treloar College student Delali has been working with the Marketing Team to help update posters around the site. After an introduction to the team and the brand, she started compiling an audit of all the signs and posters that need replacing and making a record of where they are. With the list complete, she has been working with the new templates to create new posters. We hope this work experience project will give Delali an insight into the brand project, alongside an opportunity to learn her way around the campus!



NOYO rehearsal dates 2024

Applications to audition for one of regional NOYO Ensembles in Birmingham, Bristol, Bournemouth, Cardiff or London will open 23 February – 24 March 2024. To get a feel for what it's like rehearsing with NOYO, everyone is invited to visit one of NOYO's Open Rehearsals in February and March 2024.

[To find out more, visit NOYO's website.](#)



What's on at Treloar's



Treloar's Gala Dinner, Mansion House, London

Tuesday 30 April

You're invited to a very special evening of dinner, drinks and live entertainment at the stunning Mansion House in London.



Friends of Treloar's Plant Sale, Treloar's

Saturday 11 May

Do you want to spruce up your garden? Browse a wide range of quality plants grown by students at Treloar's.



Treloar's Charity Golf Day, Old Thorns

Wednesday 5 June

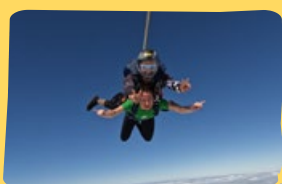
We're back at Old Thorns for another year of swinging success on the greens at our Golf Day!



The Lady Mayoress's Afternoon Tea, Mansion House

Wednesday 26 June

Join us for a special Afternoon Tea Party hosted by The Lady Mayoress of London in the stunning Egyptian Hall at Mansion House.



Summer Sky Dive, Salisbury

Saturday 20 July

Don't miss the experience of a lifetime! Take to the skies for our students with a breathtaking skydive.



The Dummer Fair, Basingstoke

Wednesday 9 and Thursday 10 October

Featuring over 80 stalls, The Dummer Fair is a fantastic opportunity to do some early Christmas shopping or treat yourself!



Spooktacular Halloween Laser Light Show, Treloar's

Thursday 31 October

Join us for a ghoully good time at our spooktacular Halloween Laser Light Show! We hope to see you there!

**Thank you again for your support.
Every gift helps our students
achieve their very best.**

**Scan here
for more
event info**



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